SEC73

HO-13388

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Condensed Transcript

Prepared by:

HO-13388

Friday, October 05, 2018

EXHIBIT 229
WIT: WANG
DATE: 1-9-20
Jeanine Curcione, CSR, RPR

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1 THE UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION	1 CONTENTS	l age o
2	2	
3 In the Matter of:	3 WITNESS: EXAMINATION	N I
4) File No. HO-13388-A	4 Harrison Wang 5	
5 KIK INTERACTIVE, INC.)	5	
6	6 EXHIBITS DESCRIPTION IDENTI	IFIED
7 WITNESS: Harrison Wang	7 71 Subpoena and Cover Letter 7	
8 PAGES: 1 through 31	8	
9 PLACE: Securities and Exchange Commission	9	
10 444 South Flower Street, Suite 900	10	
11 Los Angeles, California 90071	11	
12 DATE: Thursday, July 19, 2018	12	
13	13	ł
14 The above-entitled matter came on for hearing,	14	
15 pursuant to notice, at 9:59 a.m.	15	i
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19	19	
20	20	
21	21	
22	22	
: 23	23	
24 Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.	24	i
25 (202) 467-9200	25	
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1 APPEARANCES:	1 PROCEEDINGS	
2	2 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Good morning.	
3 On behalf of the Securities and Exchange Commission:	3 This begins the investigative testimony of	
4 JAMES MURTHA, ESQ.	4 Mr. Harrison Wang in the matter regarding Kik Interacti	ive,
5 JEFFREY LEASURE, ESQ.	5 Incorporated, file No. HO-13388-A. Today's date is Jul	ly
6 Securities and Exchange Commission	6 19, 2018. The time is 9:59 a.m. This testimony is bein	ıg
7 Division of Enforcement	7 taken at 444 South Flower Street in Los Angeles,	
8 100 F Street, N.E.	8 California.	
9 Washington, D.C. 20549	9 The videographer and notary today is Keith	
10	10 Farris representing Diversified Reporting. The certified	i
11 Also Present:	11 court reporter today is Mr. Marshall Latiner.	
12 Keith Farris, Videographer	12 Will all counsel now please introduce	
13	13 themselves.	
14	14 MR. MURTHA: James Murtha with the SEC Divi	ision
15	15 of Enforcement out of the Washington D.C. office.	
16	16 MR. LEASURE: Jeffrey Leasure, same division	
17	17 and office.	
18	18 MR. MURTHA: Please raise you right hand.	
19	Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth	
20	20 and nothing but the truth.	
21	21 MR. WANG: Yes.	
22	22 Whereupon,	
23	23 HARRISON WANG,	
24	24 was called as a witness and, having been first duly	
25	25 sworn, was examined and testified as follows.	

Page 5 Page 7 1 **EXAMINATION** 1 A Yes 2 BY MR. MURTHA: 2 Q Since you are not represented by counsel, there 3 Q Could you please state your full name and spell 3 are certain matters discussed in Exhibit No. 1 that I 4 your name for the record? 4 would like to highlight for you. A Harrison Wang; H-A-R-R-I-S-O-N, the last name Do you understand that upon your request these 6 is W-A-N-G. 6 proceedings will be adjourned so you may obtain counsel? 7 7 Q Good morning, Mr. Wang. I'm James Murtha and A Yes. 8 to my immediate left is Jeffrey Leasure. We are members 8 Q Do you understand that the statutes set forth 9 of the staff of the Enforcement Division of the United 9 in Exhibit No. 1 provide criminal penalties for knowingly 10 States Securities and Exchange Commission and officers of 10 providing false testimony or knowingly using false 11 the commission for purposes of this proceeding. 11 documents in connection with this investigation? 12 This is an investigation by the United States 12 Α Yes. 13 Securities and Exchange Commission in the matter of Kik 13 Do you understand you may assert your rights 14 Interactive, File No. HO-13388, to determine whether 14 under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution and refuse 15 there have been violations of certain provisions of the 15 to answer any questions which may tend to incriminate 16 Federal Securities Laws. 16 you? 17 However, the facts developed 17 Α Yes. 18 in this investigation might constitute violations of 18 Q Mr. Wang, this is a copy of a subpoena that has 19 other federal or state civil or criminal laws. been marked as Exhibit 71. 20 Prior to the opening of the record, you were 20 (SEC Exhibit No. 71 was marked 21 provided with a copy of the Formal Order of Investigation 21 for identification.) 22 in this matter as supplemented. 22 BY MR. MURTHA: 23 It will be available for your 23 Q Is this a copy of the subpoena you are 24 examination during the course of this proceeding. 24 appearing pursuant to here today? 25 Mr. Wang, have you had an opportunity to review 25 A Yes. Page 6 Page 8 1 the Formal Order? Q Thank you. 1 2 Mr. Wang, are you currently on or taking any Yes. 3 medication that would affect your ability to remember 3 Q Do you have any questions? 4 things or recall events or do you suffer from any medical 4 A No. 5 conditions that would similarly affect your ability to Q Also prior to the opening of the record, you 6 recall events or answer questions truthfully? 6 were provided a copy of the Commission's Supplemental Information Form 1662. 7 Α A copy of that notice has been 8 Q We'll just start out with you giving us at a 9 resume level maybe beginning with college your previously marked as Exhibit 1. 10 educational and work experience. 10 (SEC Exhibit No. 1 was marked 11 11 for identification.) A Yes. 12 BY MR. MURTHA: 12 I went to Johns Hopkins. After that I was in 13 Q Mr. Wang, have you had the opportunity to read 13 New York for three years, I think. During that time I 14 Exhibit No. 1? 14 took a development boot camp for tech and then started 15 15 my own startup and then have since worked for two tech 16 Q Do you have any questions concerning this 16 companies. Q Tell me about the tech boot camp you took; who 17 notice? 17 18 18 ran that? 19 A It was called Flatiron School in New York. It 19 Q You have the right to be accompanied, 20 represented and advised by counsel. 20 was - I guess the guy who founded it, his name is Avi 21 This means that you may have an 21 Flombaum. 22 Q What did you learn there? 22 attorney present and that your attorney can 23 A It was just like a three-month coding boot 23 advise you before, during and after your examination here 24 camp. 24 today. 25 Do you understand this? 25 So Javascript, Ruby, HTML.

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	rage it
Q You had mentioned that you had this startup	1 A Yes.
2 company; what was that?	2 Q At the time you first started buying cryptos,
3 A It was called Click Me.	3 were they tradable on secondary exchanges?
4 Q Tell me about that.	4 A Yes, I believe so. Yeah.
5 A So that was just me and a friend from MIT	5 Q In your view, what's the purpose of secondary
6 started a company.	6 exchanges for cryptos?
7 We raised a little money, and we	7 A You mean something like Coinbase?
8 couldn't raise any more money, so we shut that down.	8 Q Sure.
9 Q What was the goal of Click Me or what was Click	9 Is Coinbase a secondary exchange?
10 Me going to do?	10 A It's an exchange. I guess I'm not really sure
11 A So it was, I guess, a social media platform	11 what a secondary exchange is.
12 that sits on blogs, on websites.	12 Q Is Coinbase an exchange where you can exchange
13 Q And you were trying to get people to click on	13 cryptos?
14 something?	14 A Yes.
15 A It was basically like an Instagram for	15 Q And in your view what's the purpose of a
16 websites.	16 Coinbase?
17 So you could hover over images and the like, and	17 A Just so that like we tell consumers, investors
18 comment directly on those images, on websites. So the	18 can get can buy a Bitcoin or buy cryptocurrencies.
19 point was to drive engagement to websites.	19 Q Do these exchanges provide liquidity to people
20 Q And how did you raise money for that?	20 who have invested in cryptos?
21 A Just like family and friends.	21 A Yes.
22 Q Could you, at a high level, tell us about your	22 Q Do you own more than a million dollars in
23 general investment experience?	23 cryptos?
24 A Generally I had a small stock portfolio that my	24 A Yes.
25 dad give me, and then it was that, and then	25 Q Why do you purchase cryptos?
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1 Business Insider or something.	1 We we actually Tanner
2 It was just like news	2 Phillips, the head of corporate had called us before,
3 sites.	3 yeah.
4 Q Like sort of a crypto media outlet?	4 Q Just for purposes of today when you use the
5 Is that a fair way to put	5 term "we," you're referring to you and your brother,
6 it?	6 William?
7 A Yes.	7 A My brother and I, yes.
8 I think there were also articles on mainstr	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
9 sources Forbes and Business Insider, I believe.	
10 Q Do you have a brother?	10 that you had done as part of your research?
11 A Yes.	11 A Yeah.
12 Q What's his name?	12 Q And was it important to you and your brother
13 A William Wang.	13 that these VCs were participating in the Kin ICO?
14 Q And is your brother, William, involved in	
15 Kin ICO along with you?	15 Q Why?
16 A Yes.	16 A It was just a lot of credibility, you know.
17 Q And did you and your brother pool your	
18 together to invest?	18 know.
19 A Yes.	19 There's a lot of scams and stuff out there. So I
20 Q And then did you and – let me rephrase	_
21 Did you only invest under your name?	21 lot of money in the ICO as well.
22 A Yes.	22 Q Gave you –
23 Q Why did you buy Kin?	23 A More confidence, I guess.
24 What was the draw?	24 Q Peace of mind?
25 A We were sold on the ecosystem part of i	t. 25 A Peace of mind, yes.
	Page 14 Page 16
1 And that we felt that – we felt	Q Peace of mind that you were investing in a real
2 kind of the next stage in cryptocurrencies	2 project?
3 is utility.	3 A Correct. Yes.
4 And Kik had well, at that	4 Q Do you know in U.S. dollars what your Kin
5 time it was an established company with a lot of	
6 and so we felt they had a fast track to like, a lot	
7 utility.	7 Q Have you sold any of your Kin?
8 Q And why is having a fast track to a lot of	
9 utility important to you?	9 Q What did you plan to do with your Kin after you
10 A Just for smoother advantage, just, you k	
11 an app, something that has cryptocurrency that	is just 11 A Well, we were going to hold it for a while, at
	illions 42 come point liquidate come and then you know according
12 starting is going to be behind an app that has m	
13 of users and it's going to integrate cryptocurrent	cy. 13 to the Whitepaper and everything there should be a lot of
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1			D 40
1	Page 17 Q When did you open that?	1	Page 19 demand as well.
2	• •	2	BY MR. MURTHA:
3		3	Q Did you invest in Kin because you wanted to
4			make a profit?
5		5	A Yes.
6	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	6	Q And just to be clear, you did not invest in Kin
7		"	to buy stickers.
8		8	Is that right?
9		9	A Correct. Yes.
10		10	Q Do you think it's possible for you yourself to
11	•	11	significantly influence whether Kin rises in value?
12		12	A I guess yes, I feel like I probably could.
13	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	13	Q Tell me about that.
14	•		A Well, we have a lot of it, Kin, so I guess in
15	•		theory we could do like a pump and dump.
1	you could actually purchase them.	16	BY MR. LEASURE:
17		17	Q Have you done
1	or something.	. 18	A We haven't sold anything yet.
19	•	. 19	Q Do you or your brother have the ability to
20		1	build the kin ecosystem?
21		21	A No.
22		22	Q Who was building the kin ecosystem?
	does very well on messaging apps. I don't know about	23	A Kin has an engineering team.
24		24	Q Is that something you can participate in?
1	K-a-o K-a-o, they do very well.	25	A No.
-			
1	Page 18 Q Did you buy Kin in order to gain access to	1	Page 20
	Q Did you buy Kin in order to gain access to digital stickers?	1 2	Q Is it an open source project? A Not that I know of, no.
3	•	3	Q I just used the word, so let me try to define
4		4	-
5		5	If Kin is not an open source project, what does that
6			mean?
-	users on Kik and we were not invited as beta users.	7	A So basically open source, like any developer
8			could, I guess, write code and be involved in the
9		1	development of that, that app, yes, or that product.
10		10	Q And Kin because it is not open sourced, the
11		1	coding and the work is being done by Kik engineers, to
1	a vitter you bought thit, and you hope that it		
į	would rise in value?	ı	
12	would rise in value? A Yes	12	your knowledge?
12 13	A Yes.	12 13	your knowledge? A To my knowledge, yes.
12 13 14	A Yes. Q And how would that happen?	12 13 14	your knowledge? A To my knowledge, yes. BY MR. MURTHA:
12 13 14 15	A Yes.Q And how would that happen?A Well, typically it would be on an exchange	12 13 14 15	your knowledge? A To my knowledge, yes. BY MR. MURTHA: Q What if Kik conducted the ICO and then did
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1 A No.

- 2 Q Did you buy Kin with the belief that it would
- 3 be listed on secondary exchanges?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q Was that important to you?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q Why?
- 8 A Just liquidity, just having options for
- 9 liquidity.
- 10 Q Why is liquidity important to you?
- 11 A I guess, you know, cash is king, always good to
- 12 have the option to cash out if I need to.
- 13 Q How did you get the impression that Kin might
- 14 be listed on exchanges in the future?
- 15 A Yes.
- So I think before -- maybe before the ICO or
- 17 during the ICO or something, there was like a tweet
- 18 saying they were I forgot. It was something like,
- 19 "Oh, we're talking to exchanges." And when people would
- 20 ask about it, they would kind of egg it on a little
- 21 like, "Oh, don't worry," like smiley face or something.
- 22 Those were not the exact, you know, words
- 23 obviously, but there was -- there was a little like
- 24 egging on. Because obviously all ICO purchasers know
- 25 exchanges are extremely important. So that was a hot

- Page 21
- 1 say that you did not intend to immediately use Kin in the
- 2 Kin ecosystem?
- 3 A Correct. Yes.
- 4 Q In fact, you understood that you were unable to
- 5 participate in the Kin ecosystem at the time of the
- 6 offering because it didn't exist yet; right?
- 7 A Correct, Yes.
- 8 Q In the future when the Kin ecosystem is built
- 9 out, you might participate in that ecosystem; is that
- 10 right?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q At the time you purchased Kin in September of
- 13 2017, did you know what products you might purchase in
- 14 the future when you participated in the ecosystem?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 I think maybe the Whitepaper -- yeah, I think
- 17 the Whitepaper, I think it showed like screen sheets like
- 18 you could buy Starbucks gift cards and they talked about
- 19 like oh, yeah, it would be implemented in games, like a
- 20 whole variety of apps, food delivery apps, things like
- 21 that.
- 22 Q Was your purpose in buying Kin in 2017 tied
- 23 specifically to any one of those use cases?
- 24 A I mean, a couple of use cases.
- 25 Q My question is did you intend to buy Kin in

Page 22

- 1 topic.
- 2 BY MR. LEASURE:
- 3 Q And the "they" who you said were egging on the
- 4 possibility of exchanges, those were people from Kik?
- 5 A Yeah, those were people like running either
- 6 the social media accounts, you know yeah, community 7 managers.
- 8 BY MR. MURTHA:
- 9 Q On the day you received your Kin, were you able
- 10 to trade Kin on any exchanges?
- 11 A I don't believe so.
- 12 Q Today are you able to trade Kin on any
- 13 exchanges?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 But they're mostly decentralized exchanges, so
- 16 it's not exchanges I think that we would ever trust, my
- 17 brother and I would ever trust.
- 18 Q What do you mean by "decentralized exchanges"?
- 19 A So like central would be something that had
- 20 someone -- like if anything went wrong, you could contact
- 21 customer support or had like an entity that you could
- 22 contact for help. Decentralized is basically kind of
- 23 what crypto and Blockchain is built around, so it's kind
- 24 of based on like voting in a sense.
- 25 Q At the time you purchased Kin, is it fair to

Page 24 1 order to obtain Starbucks gift cards in the future.

- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q You wanted Starbucks gift cards?
- 4 A Starbucks, Amazon. We were hoping for games,
- 5 we were hoping for Clash of Clans, you know.
- 6 BY MR. LEASURE:
- 7 Q So why not wait until the ecosystem is built?
- 8 A I mean, frankly we just thought we would get in
- 9 at a better price.
- 10 Q So you could in the future get more out of the
- 11 ecosystem --
- 12 A Correct. Right.
- 13 Q -- by buying early?
- 14 A Correct.
- 15 Kind of like an early investor or something.
- 16 BY MR. MURTHA:
- 17 Q Have you traded any of your Kin?
- 18 A I have not, no.
- 19 Q Have you ever had any communications with
- 20 anyone from Kik?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q Tell me about that.
- 23 A Before the ICO we talked to this guy named
- 24 Tanner Phillips. He had reached out to us. And he
- 25 called us to, you know, to, I guess, ask about our

		1	
1	Page 25 interests. And, you know, he said, "Anything you guys	1	Page 27 1 Q And did that happen?
	need, you know, just feel free to reach out, I'll get	2	
	back to you, you know, anything you need help with, any	3	
4		4	
5	Q And did you ever reach out to him after you	5	
6	purchased your Kin?	6	6 eventually will be implemented into Flipagram?
7	A Yes.	7	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
8	I mean, they, in our opinion, they went	- 8	8 Q Do you know why it won't be?
9	basically radio silent for two, three, maybe two months	9	9 A So Flipagram sold to a Chinese company called
10	after the ICO event. And, you know, I sent them emails.	10	
11	And some he wouldn't respond at all. Some he would just	11	1 party SDKs.
12	give me very vague answers. But he was definitely not as	12	2 Q What does SDK stand for?
13	helpful or communicative as he made it seem like he would	13	3 A It's like system development kit or something.
14	be.	14	4 BY MR. LEASURE:
15	Q You felt frustrated?	15	5 Q Did Kik provide you with financials for the Kik
16	A Yes, very frustrated. I mean, we're still very	16	6 company at the time of the offering?
17	frustrated.	17	7 A No.
18	Q What are you frustrated about?	18	8 Q So you like the vision for Kin; correct?
19	A Just like communication. I think communication	19	9 A Correct.
20	with that team has generally been really bad. But, you	20	· ·
21	know, we are happy that it seems like from a tech	21	,
	standpoint, from a product standpoint things are moving	22	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	forward. Regardless of that the communication is really	1	3 with Kik; correct?
	bad. It was really poor.	24	
25	Q So communications were poor, but from a tech	25	5 Q And about the pace; you want the pace of the
	Page 26		Page 28
1	standpoint things are moving forward, you mean - when	1	1 development of the ecosystem to be faster, if possible?
2	you say "things are moving forward," you mean Kik is	2	2 A Well, I just want them to stick to their
3	doing things and building things?	3	3 timeline.
4	A Correct.	4	4 Q And you're concerned that they're not?
5	Q And that's important to you?	5	5 A They're not, yeah.
6	A Correct. Yes.	6	
7			6 It's not like they're
	Q Why is it important to you?	7	6 It's not like they're 7 way behind, yeah.
8	A I guess, like I said before, the main reason we	8	6 It's not like they're 7 way behind, yeah. 8 Q The "they" is Kik?
9	A I guess, like I said before, the main reason we got into Kin was for utility. And so it's being released	8 9	6 It's not like they're 7 way behind, yeah. 8 Q The "they" is Kik? 9 A Kik. I'm sorry. Yes.
9 10	A I guess, like I said before, the main reason we got into Kin was for utility. And so it's being released into the mainstream and there's finally some utility.	8 9 10	6 It's not like they're 7 way behind, yeah. 8 Q The "they" is Kik? 9 A Kik. I'm sorry. Yes. 0 Q My problem too.
9 10 11	A I guess, like I said before, the main reason we got into Kin was for utility. And so it's being released into the mainstream and there's finally some utility. Q Getting into the mainstream and having Kin have	8 9 10 11	It's not like they're way behind, yeah. Q The "they" is Kik? A Kik. I'm sorry. Yes. Q My problem too. Is it fair to say that you invested in Kin at
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Page 29	
1 Is that right, Mr. Wang?	
2 A That's right.	
3 Q Is Kin the only ICO that you participated in?	
4 A Yes.	
5 Q At this time I would like to offer you the	·
6 opportunity to clarify anything that you said here today.	
7 Is there anything you'd like to	
8 clarify?	
9 A No.	
MR. MURTHA: We're off the record.	
11 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This concludes today's 12 investigative testimony of Mr. Harrison Wang. And the	·
13 time is 10:38.	
14 (Whereupon, at 10:38 a.m., the examination	
15 concluded.)	
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Page 30	
Page 30 1 PROOFREADER'S CERTIFICATE	
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